

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Remarks

Claims 9, 13, and 18 are amended for greater clarity. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as filed and does not present new matter. Claims 1-18 remain pending and are subject to restriction.

### The restriction requirement

Restriction has been required between Claim 1 (group I), Claims 2, 7 and 8 (Group II), Claim 3 (Group III), Claim 4 (Group IV), Claim 5 (Group V), Claim 6 (Group VI) and Claims 9-18 (Group VII). Claims 9-18 (Group VII) are provisionally elected.

### Conclusion

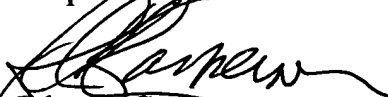
In view of the foregoing, early notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

  
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